ANNUAL REPORT

1983-84

Alberta

LABOUR

ALBERTA LABOUR
Mailing Address
10808 - 99 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 0G2

Enquiries
Telephone (403) 427-5585

Additional copies of this annual report may be obtained from:
Communications Branch
Alberta Labour
10808 - 99 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 0G2

ISSN 0702-9667
DEP-1-85-3-A-750
Printed in Alberta

Alberta

LABOUR

Office of
the Minister

403/427-3664

404 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5K 2B6

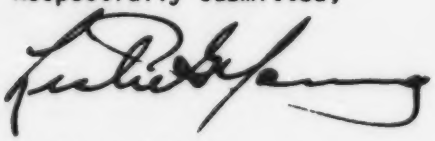
March 1985

The Honourable G. Amerongen
Speaker
Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Alberta Department of Labour for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1984.

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie G. Young
Minister of Labour

Alberta

LABOUR

Office of
the Deputy Minister

403/427-8305

10808 - 99 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5K 0G2

March 1985

The Honourable Leslie G. Young
Minister of Labour
Room 404, Legislative Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Mr. Young:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Alberta Department of Labour for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1984.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint S. Mellors
Deputy Minister

Officials*

MINISTER OF LABOUR, THE HONOURABLE LESLIE G. YOUNG
Secretary to Minister of Labour, Carol Pirie
Executive Assistant to Minister of Labour, Vera Yuzyk

DEPUTY MINISTER, Al Dubensky, QC; vacant after 1 February 1984
Secretary to Deputy Minister, Ollie Olekshy
Executive Assistant to Deputy Minister, Eslin Eling

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
Assistant Deputy Minister, Albert Kennedy
Director, Communications Branch, Ken Bradley
Director, Finance and Administration Branch, Cliff Broemling
Director, Library Services Branch, Wendy Kinsella
Director, Personnel Branch, Lenore Martin
Director, Planning and Research Branch, Janet Howell
Director, Systems Branch, Jerry Stocco
Internal Auditor, Vic Feguenne

LABOUR DIVISION
Assistant Deputy Minister, Clint Mellors
Director, Employment Standards Branch, Mike Kolmatycki
Director, Mediation Services Branch, Wes Pangrass
Superintendent, Pension Benefits Branch, Art Wakefield**

GENERAL SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION
Assistant Deputy Minister, Doug Morrison
Chief Inspector, Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch, Les Smith
Director, Building Standards Branch, Dave Monsen
Chief Inspector, Electrical Protection Branch, Ken Fennessey
Chief Inspector, Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch, Steve Millward
Fire Commissioner, Fire Prevention Branch, Bill MacKay
Director, Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch, Jack Mercer

LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD
Chairman, Al Dubensky, QC
Vice-Chairman, Bill Canning
Secretary, Bob Bronson
Solicitor, Bob Philp
Registrar, Northern Region, Dennis Bykowski
Registrar, Southern Region, Jim Jung

ALBERTA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION***
Chairman, Marlene Antonio
Executive Director, Jack Tutty
Regional Director (North), Denis St. Arnaud
Regional Director (South), Pardeep Gundara (Acting)

* 31 March 1984

** In accordance with section 6(2) of the *Pension Benefits Act*, the Pension Benefits Branch is required to submit a separate annual report to the Alberta Legislature. A summary of the branch's activities is contained in this report.

*** In accordance with section 18(1) of the *Individual's Rights Protection Act*, the Alberta Human Rights Commission submits a separate annual report to the Alberta Legislature.

Legislation

The following Acts are administered by Alberta Labour:

Alberta Uniform Building Standards Act
Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act
Department of Labour Act
Electrical Protection Act
Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Act
Employment Standards Act
Fire Prevention Act
Gas Protection Act
Individual's Rights Protection Act
Industrial Wages Security Act
Labour Relations Act
Pension Benefits Act
Plumbing and Drainage Act
Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act

Contents

Page

ORGANIZATION CHART 2

INTRODUCTION 3

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 4

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION 6

Communications Branch 6
Finance and Administration Branch 7
Library Services Branch 8
Personnel Branch 8
Planning and Research Branch 9
Systems Branch 10
Internal Audit Office 10

LABOUR DIVISION 11

Employment Standards Branch 11
Mediation Services Branch 12
Pension Benefits Branch 13

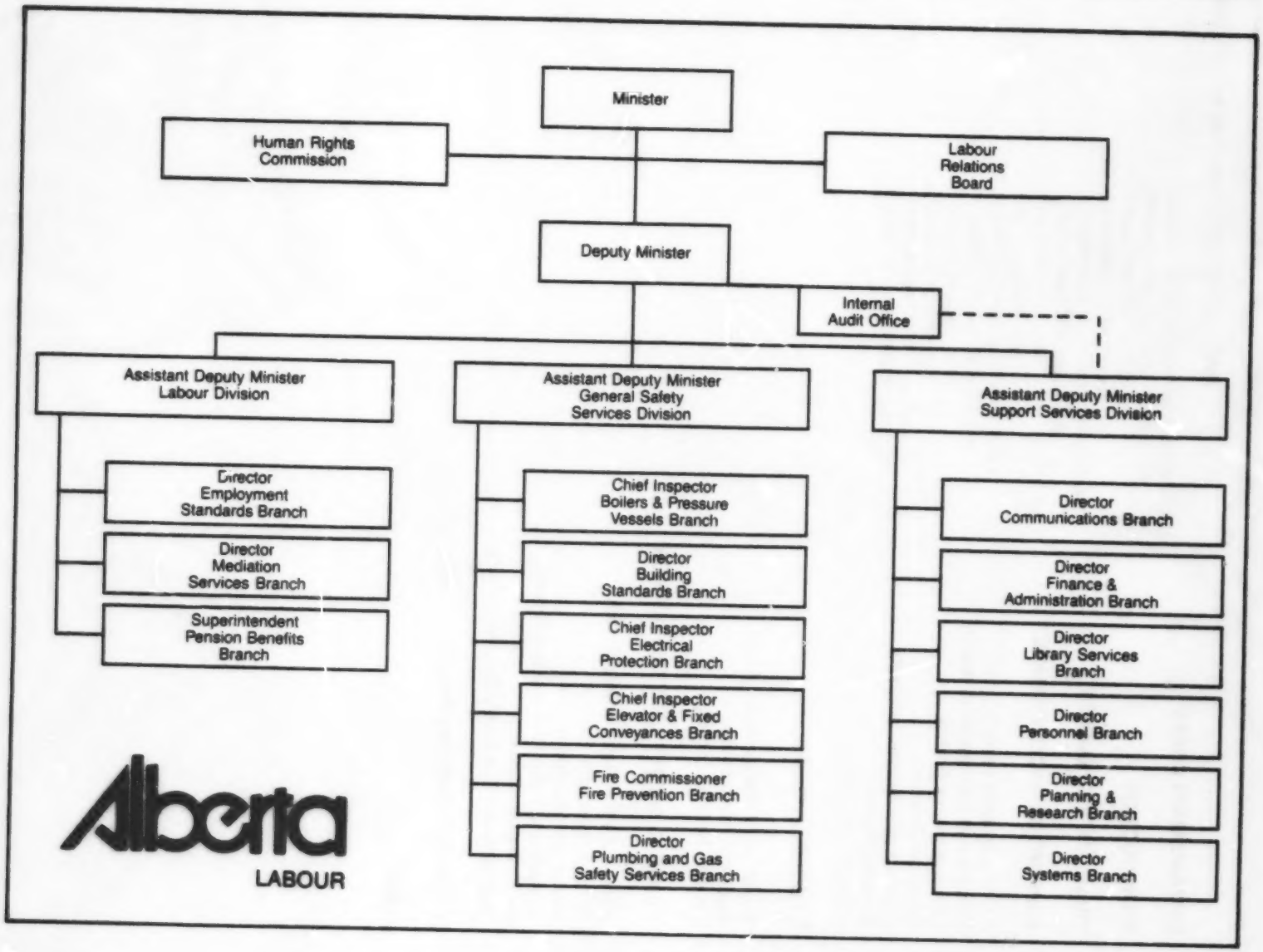
GENERAL SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION 15

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch 15
Building Standards Branch 16
Electrical Protection Branch 17
Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch 18
Fire Prevention Branch 19
Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch 20

LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD 23

TABLES 25

Organization Chart


Minister
Human Rights Commission
Labour Relations Board
Deputy Minister
Internal Audit Office
Assistant Deputy Minister Labour Division
Assistant Deputy Minister General Safety Services Division
Assistant Deputy Minister Support Services Division
Director Employment Standards Branch
Director Mediation Services Branch
Superintendent Pension Benefits Branch
Chief Inspector Boilers & Pressure Vessels Branch
Director Building Standards Branch
Chief Inspector Electrical Protection Branch
Chief Inspector Elevator & Fixed Conveyances Branch
Fire Commissioner Fire Prevention Branch
Director Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch
Director Communications Branch
Director Finance & Administration Branch
Director Library Services Branch
Director Personnel Branch
Director Planning & Research Branch
Director Systems Branch
Alberta
LABOUR

Introduction

Alberta Labour is concerned with the development of harmonious and productive relations between employers and employees, the prevention and resolution of disputes between employers and unions, the administration of private pension plans, public safety and the enforcement of Alberta's human rights legislation. In fiscal year 1983-84 the department had 627 authorized permanent positions and a budget totalling $25 766 444.

The department comprises the Support Services Division, the Labour Division and the General Safety Services Division, each headed by an assistant deputy minister; and the permanent staffs of the Labour Relations Board and the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

Support Services Division provides administrative support to the department and administers certain services directed to the general public. Labour Division provides assistance in preventing and resolving labour disputes, regulates the administration of private pension plans and enforces legislation regulating minimum standards of employment. General Safety Services Division develops and enforces safety standards which pertain to boilers and pressure vessels, elevators and fixed conveyances, gas, plumbing and electrical installations, buildings and fire control.

The Alberta Labour Relations Board is a quasi-judicial tribunal which administers the *Labour Relations Act*. The board certifies trade unions and has the power to revoke certification. In the construction industry, it registers employers' organizations as bargaining agents; monitors compliance with the Act; issues directives in response to illegal strikes and lockouts; and governs the procedures for legal strikes and lockouts. The board is composed of a chairman, 2 vice-chairmen, 7 employer representatives and 7 union representatives. All are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The Alberta Human Rights Commission is responsible for educating the public on matters of human rights, and for promoting and enforcing the province's human rights legislation. It is composed of a chairman and 6 commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The Year in Review

During fiscal year 1983-84, two major pieces of labour legislation were passed by the Legislative Assembly: Bill 44 *(Labour Statutes Amendment Act)* and Bill 110 *(Labour Statutes Amendment Act, 1983)*. Bill 44, which was introduced on 11 April 1983, passed on 1 June and proclaimed on 15 July, amended the *Labour Relations Act*, the *Firefighters and Policemen Labour Relations Act*, the *Public Service Employee Relations Act*, the *Public Service Act* and the *Liquor Control Act*, and it repealed the *Health Services Continuation Act*. Bill 44 established criteria for determining wages and benefits under compulsory arbitration; introduced compulsory arbitration to deal with impasses in negotiations between hospitals and their employees, and prohibited strikes and lockouts in hospitals and auxiliary hospitals; and extended the *Labour Relations Act* to cover most employees of the Alberta Liquor Control Board.

Bill 110, which was introduced on 18 November 1983 and passed on 30 November, reaffirmed the principles that a majority of employees in a workplace should have the opportunity to express their preference concerning the formation of a union and to be effectively represented by the union of their choice; that employers have the opportunity to do business in whatever corporate form they choose, while respecting the wishes of a majority of employees to be represented by a union; and that employers have the right to communicate with their employees as long as they do not use coercion and intimidation. On 31 January 1984 the minister announced that the government would not proceed with the proclamation of Bill 110, because widely divergent interpretations of it had created a climate of uncertainty in construction labour relations.

Other major undertakings by the department during fiscal year 1983-84 included development of the *Alberta Fire Code*, which was designed to provide uniform fire safety standards throughout the province. The latest version of the *Canadian Electrical Code, Part I* was adopted for application in Alberta, as was CSA Standard B355, *Safety Code for Elevating Devices for the Handicapped*. In addition, the *Regulations Governing Propane Installation* were updated to include the conversion of vehicles from gasoline to propane, and the *Regulations Governing Gasfitters' Certification* were amended to streamline the maintenance of combined gas heating and refrigerating equipment.

In fiscal year 1983-84 the department continued to emphasize efficiency in its operations. Despite a reduction in staffing, the various branches accommodated successfully to the changing conditions, maintaining their levels of activity and, in some cases, raising them, as the reports on the following pages indicate.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

for the fiscal year ending 31 March 1984

Vote and Ref. No. Program/Element	Estimates	Prior Year Liabilities	Special Warrants	Transfers	Total Authorized	Expended	Unexpended (Overexpended)
1 Departmental Support Services							
Minister's Office	165 339					148 162	
Executive Management	336 229					298 040	
Personnel	283 981					257 272	
Finance & Administration	1 006 831					878 577	
Systems	335 181					302 396	
Communications	53 858					59 713	
Planning & Research	921 428					725 862	
DIVISION TOTAL	3 102 847				3 102 847	2 670 022	432 825
2 Labour Relations							
Divisional Support	141 642					123 811	
Pension Plan Services	363 387					326 507	
Mediation Services	1 169 957					759 398	
Employment Standards	3 330 038					3 471 981	
DIVISION TOTAL	5 005 024				5 005 024	4 681 697	323 327
3 General Safety Services							
Divisional Support	1 117 161					1 008 447	
Boilers	3 221 022					3 090 551	
Building Standards	1 629 341					1 531 503	
Electrical Protection	2 790 164					2 935 766	
Elevators	765 016					810 189	
Fire Prevention	2 486 213					2 326 762	
Plumbing & Gas Safety	3 033 692					3 230 504	
DIVISION TOTAL	15 042 609				15 042 609	14 933 722	108 887
4 Labour Relations Board	959 995				959 995	952 204	7 791
5 Human Rights Commission	1 150 969		505 000		1 655 969	1 503 574	152 395
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	25 261 444				25 766 444	24 741 219	1 025 225

Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF REVENUE

for the fiscal years ending 31 March 1983 and 1984

	1982-83	1983-84
Taxes		
Fire Prevention Act	$1 233 474	$1 186 496
Fees and permits		
Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act	1 305 214	1 108 059
Electrical Protection Act	1 474 402	1 364 673
Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Act	186 115	172 450
Gas Protection & Plumbing and Drainage Act	354 355*	351 074
Pension Benefits Act	35 501	35 263
	3 355 587	3 031 519
Miscellaneous		
Other	41 491	7 534
Prior Year Refunds (PYR)	2 999	3 442
Federal-Provincial Agreement	30 000	30 000
TOTAL REVENUE	$4 663 551	$4 258 991

* Prior year's revenues were handled through separate accounts, but upon the amalgamation of the Plumbing and Gas Protection Branches, a single account was set up to handle 1983-84 revenues.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division is responsible for providing professional support services in the areas of finance, personnel, systems, planning and research, library services and communications. The division provides services to the department (including the Alberta Human Rights Commission and the Labour Relations Board), and also administers certain services which are provided for the general public. The division consists of the Communications, Finance and Administration, Library, Personnel, Planning and Research, and Systems Branches, and the Internal Audit Office.

In addition to the ongoing services provided by its branches, the division is responsible for the overall identification and implementation of systems and procedures to improve quality, effectiveness and efficiency in the department's operations. The division also takes the lead in planning and developing systems and procedures to support the department's long-range needs.

Communications Branch

The Communications Branch staff, unlike other employees in Alberta Labour, are seconded from the Public Affairs Bureau. Working closely with senior departmental management and central bureau staff, the Communications Branch develops and implements plans to increase public awareness and understanding of the policies, programs and services of Alberta Labour, including the Alberta Human Rights Commission and the Labour Relations Board.

Consulting Services

One of the important functions of the Communications Branch is to supply consulting services to executive and senior management in the department. Typically, the branch provides media analyses, develops recommendations for publicity and public information programs and makes available advice and assistance in the production of public-information and promotional materials. During the year, the branch provided consulting services on a wide range of projects, including amendments to the *Labour Relations Act* and the *Fire Prevention Act*, the 25th Anniversary celebrations for the Alberta Fire Training School, Fire Prevention Week, International Human Rights Day and an information program to increase public awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Writing and Editorial Services

In 1983-84 the department's publishing program continued to expand and improve. During the year new publications were produced and several existing publications were updated and reprinted. The Communications Branch produced and distributed news features on a wide array of topics. The branch also provided writing and editorial assistance in support of a vigorous public-speaking program. It continued to bear responsibility for producing the *Alberta Human Rights Journal* (a quarterly publication of the Alberta Human Rights Commission), *Labour Newsline* (Alberta Labour's staff newsletter) and the department's three annual reports.

Media Relations

Fiscal year 1983-84 witnessed sustained media interest in the department. As the department's point of contact with the news media, the Communications Branch responded to more than 1200 media enquiries, prepared and distributed 55 news releases, organized 4 news conferences and arranged some 28 media interviews with departmental officials. Through continued publication of *Headline News*, the branch provided senior departmental officials with daily summaries of the coverage by the news media of events and issues of interest to the department. In its continued effort to keep members of the media informed of the department's responsibilities and programs, the Communications Branch, in co-operation with other branches in the department, conducted workshops for the media. The branch distributed media kits to media outlets throughout the province. These contained recorded tapes, background information and promotional materials in support of publicity campaigns on Alberta's ethnocultural communities, fire prevention and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Advertising

The branch co-ordinated a multi-media, province-wide advertising campaign supporting the Alberta Human Rights Commission's efforts to combat racism in Alberta. Through television, radio, daily and weekly newspapers, the ethnic press and selected trade publications, the campaign was launched in the fall of 1983 and extended into 1984. Based on the theme "Alberta Is For All Of Us," the campaign pointed out the hurtful effects of racism, particularly on children, and emphasized the positive contributions made to Alberta by the province's various ethno-cultural communities. During the year under review, the Communications Branch also co-ordinated the production and placement of numerous print ads in support of various initiatives undertaken by the department.

Support Services Division

Printing, Graphic Design, Audio-Visual and Photographic Services

The Communications Branch, in concert with Public Affairs Bureau staff, responded to the department's requests for printing, graphic design, audio-visual and photographic services. During 1983-84 the branch co-ordinated approximately 120 printing projects and requests for artwork, 14 requests for photographic services and 17 projects involving audio-visual production.

Finance and Administration Branch

The Finance and Administration Branch provides a broad range of financial and administrative support services and carries out control functions for other branches in the department. Branch staff act as advisors and co-ordinators with respect to these services and functions, providing management and staff throughout the department with assistance in financial planning, operations and control; assisting in the acquisition of space, equipment, supplies and services; and providing specialized office services. The branch also liaises with other government departments and the general public. Working to improve overall efficiency, the branch endeavours to ensure compliance with mandatory, government-wide and departmental financial and administrative control systems.

The branch, with 29 permanent positions, is organized into four units:

Director's Office

The Director's Office is responsible for budget co-ordination and control, for development and implementation of financial and administrative policy and procedures, and for ensuring the adequacy of departmental financial systems.

Staff continued to be extensively involved in specialized financial analysis and control efforts necessitated by the department's continuing restraint program. It is important to the branch that it managed to maintain its level of activities and services, despite a significant (10%) reduction in manpower by comparison to the previous year.

Accounts Section

The Accounts Section processes transactions and maintains records in relation to accounts payable and accounts receivable, handles departmental Crown revenues, processes and controls departmental payroll, controls fixed-asset inventory and provides financial operations advisory services.

In Accounts Payable the department's continued efforts at restraint, coupled with the hiring restrictions, resulted in an overall reduction in expenditure transactions, most markedly in expense accounts. Whereas there was an overall decrease of 5.4% in accounts payable expenditure items (and 11% for expense accounts specifically), there was in fact a 24.2% increase in non-manpower expenditures for 1983-84. Manpower expenditures increased by 6.6%, despite a slight decrease in departmental manpower utilization, and total departmental expenditures increased by 9.4% to $24 741 219.

Activity in Accounts Receivable was marginally lower, with the 8.7% decrease in revenues seemingly out of line with fairly stable permit-granting activities (Electrical Protection Branch down 4.6%, Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch up 6.1%).

Administration Section

The Administration Section plans and co-ordinates the acquisition, maintenance and renovation of space and related facilities, and acquires equipment, material, supplies and services required for delivery of the department's programs.

The Administration Section's level of activity during 1983-84 reflected a significant recovery from declines in previous years. Purchasing activity was up substantially (the number of orders handled by the unit increased by 35% to 2177), while space-related matters continued a slow decline. Major achievements during 1983-84 included a broad testing and evaluation of electronic memory typewriters; completion of the head office renovation project; and the acquisition, design and renovation of space for two other departmental projects.

Office Services Section

The Office Services Section is responsible for mail and courier operations, providing and controlling photocopier services, and the departmental records management program (including the operation of the department's Central Records Office).

Activity in the Office Services Section has been little affected by departmental efforts at restraint. The volume of mail remained stable, while Central Records Office

Support Services Division

file volumes increased dramatically. The 54% increase in the volume of files reflected the continuing incorporation of executive office files into Central Records, along with the absorption of international affairs subject files from Planning and Research. While the volume of copying continued to increase slowly, the branch completed a major proposal for a central copying facility for the department.

Library Services Branch

The Library Services Branch was created on 1 January 1984 with the separation of the department's library from the Planning and Research Branch. The Library Services Branch is responsible for providing the materials and assistance required to meet the department's research and information needs, and it supports the educational activities of the department. In addition, it serves external clients, including other government departments, libraries, research agencies, labour groups, employers, human rights agencies, students and academics, and the general public.

During the year under review the branch experienced a significant increase in activity in all areas. The number of documents loaned rose to 3542 (up from 2453 the previous year), fire film circulation increased to 1721 (from 1389) and 1650 reference questions were answered (from 1730).

The branch increased its access to scientific and technical computerized data bases and expanded its collection into areas of concern to the General Safety Services Division. The branch revised and expanded the Labour Relations Board index to include abstracts of decisions. Three new computerized indices to Alberta precedents were developed: the Grievance Arbitration Award Index, the Interest Arbitration Award Index and an index to unreported Canadian human rights decisions.

Personnel Branch

The Personnel Branch helps the department's program managers across the province to attain their goals by providing both service and control functions. The branch develops and maintains systems for recruitment and selection, employee relations, classification, wage and salary administration, performance appraisal, staff development and training, the administration of payroll and employee benefits, occupational health and safety and related activities. The branch's control function stems from its relationship with central government agencies, which gives the department a direct link to a variety of legislation, regulations, policies, directives and practices.

Staff Development

The Staff Development Program, begun in 1982, is well established in the department and has offered a wide variety of in-house courses through the departmental *Staff Development Calendar*. One hundred and fifty-four employees (19 management, 135 non-management) participated in this program, and 168 (32 management, 136 non-management) took advantage of the courses offered by the Personnel Administration Office's Organization Development Division.

In March 1983 the department's staff development officer initiated a study to ascertain the training and development needs of management employees. The results clearly indicated specific needs in the following areas: performance management, role/goal clarity, relationship behaviour/task behaviour, interaction and formal communication skills. The study also demonstrated that the department had needs that were similar to those affecting many other government departments. It indicated, for example, that there were some areas in which the efficiency of operations could be improved, and others in which the department might serve the public more effectively, even while coping with diminishing human and financial resources. As a result of the study, the department developed a plan for action called the Model for Management Enhancement. The model was approved by the Personnel Subcommittee of the Policy Executive Committee on 6 March 1984. It is to be implemented immediately and will likely be completed by March 1986.

Management Sub-level Allocation System

A plan for applying the Management Sub-level Allocation System was formally presented to the minister, the deputy minister and the Personnel Subcommittee of the Policy Executive Committee in the summer of 1983. It received final approval in February 1984. This system

provides weighted classification factors that will differentiate equitably between the levels of responsibility and the relative values of all management positions in the department. The Personnel Branch sees it as essential to the development of effective organizational structures, work relationships and pay determinations. The branch will now prepare to make a formal presentation to Management Services, Personnel Administration Office.

Recruitment and Selection Control System

The recruitment control policy implemented in July 1982 was still in effect at the end of fiscal year 1983-84. During the year the department abolished 21 vacant positions in accordance with the government's guidelines. In one instance the Personnel Branch, after careful assessment, and in consultation with the employees affected, participated in filling three vacant fire prevention officer positions through the redeployment of personnel from within the General Safety Services Division.

In response to the elimination of the Personnel Administration Office's Temporary Staffing Service, the branch established a recruitment policy for hiring temporary staff. The system provides a means, not only of recruiting, but also of gathering accurate and quickly-available staffing statistics for monthly reports. Temporary staff includes employees hired on wages, and also through the Summer Temporary Employment Program, the Priority Employment Program, the Employment Skills Program, the Work Experience Program and private agencies.

Departmental Health and Safety Program

In order to emphasize management's commitment to provide a safe workplace for employees, the Health and Safety Committee was restructured on 28 February 1984. The new committee consists of two management representatives and two union representatives who are appointed by the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees. The fact that the chairman is a senior executive means that the committee has a direct link to the Department Executive Management Committee. The department has also replaced the Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committees with worksite contacts.

Planning and Research Branch

The Planning and Research Branch provides the department with advice, assistance and co-ordination in policy analysis, planning, research, and statistics and information services. The branch represents the department on interdepartmental and intergovernmental committees concerned with research and statistics. In addition, statistics and general information are provided to labour groups, employers, the business community, research agencies and the public through the Statistics and Information Unit.

The branch's services are delivered through two other units as well: Policy Analysis and Research, and Planning. In January 1984 the library, until then a unit of the Planning and Research Branch, became the Library Services Branch (see above).

Policy Analysis and Research

The Policy Analysis and Research Unit co-ordinates research projects, initiates studies and analyses data, information and legislation pertinent to the program responsibilities of the department. Its activities include supporting the development of policy and determining the implications of proposed policies.

During the year the branch completed various projects and reports. These included reports required to fulfill Alberta's obligations under International Labour Office and United Nations conventions, comparative studies of labour relations legislation, support for the analysis of specific subjects relating to human rights and general safety services, and new and revised policies to be included in the department's administrative policy and procedures manual.

Planning

The Planning Unit supports the development, implementation and co-ordination of the department's planning process.

During the reporting period, the existing planning process was reviewed. The branch prepared a paper analysing social and economic trends and their implications for the services provided by the department.

Statistics and Information

The Statistics and Information Unit is responsible for meeting the department's data needs by collecting, processing and producing Alberta labour relations statistical data on negotiated wage increases, collective agreement provisions, trade union membership and collective bargaining disputes. In addition, a wide range of labour-related data are collected from secondary

Support Services Division

sources such as provincial and federal government agencies.

The data produced by the unit are used by government departments, trade unions, employers, researchers and the general public. The unit is also responsible for co-ordinating the statistical information needs of the department and for co-ordinating the department's activities with those of other data-producing agencies.

The unit produced a number of publications, including the quarterly *Collective Bargaining Scene/Labour Fact Book* with monthly updates; *Membership in Labour Organizations in Alberta, 1982;* and *Negotiated Working Conditions, 1983.*

As shown in Table 1, the unit received 940 telephone requests for information from a wide variety of public and private organizations in Alberta and elsewhere, and handled 53 requests for more extensive statistical and informational reports during the year.

Systems Branch

The Systems Branch provides professional electronic data and word-processing services and co-ordination to the program units of the department.

The major functions of the branch are to design and implement requested electronic data-processing systems; to operate and perform maintenance on existing systems; and to provide effective support to the department through the use of sophisticated word-processing technology.

During the reporting period, this branch, in conjunction with the departmental library, implemented systems for collecting and reporting data related to interest and grievance arbitration awards and library holdings of the Human Rights Commission and the Employment Standards Branch. Other systems established during the year related to preventive mediation activities, boiler manufacturers' data reports, activities of employees of the Elevator and Fixed Conveyances branch and on-site terminal access to the elevator inspection data base.

The branch co-ordinated the installation of terminal linkages to enable the Personnel Branch to access the on-line version of the government-wide Absent Time Reporting system; assisted in the purchase of video display and hardcopy terminals for the Planning and Research Branch to use in literature searches and statistical analysis; and co-ordinated the tender and selection of a microcomputer for use by the Boiler Branch Design Survey section in the comparative analysis of boiler and pressure vessel designs.

During 1983-84 the Word Processing Centre completed 4739 submissions of varying length and complexity.

Internal Audit Office

The Internal Audit Office was formed in 1980 as part of the reorganization of the finance and administration functions of the department. For several years the office was primarily a financial advisory service. In 1983 its scope was expanded to include operational as well as financial audits.

Reporting functionally to the deputy minister and operationally to the assistant deputy minister, Support Services Division, the Internal Audit Office is responsible for reviewing and evaluating all financial and management control systems in the department. The audit section's expanded service permits managers in the department to undertake both internal reviews of specific financial areas and broader reviews of operations. Operational audits are somewhat more comprehensive than financial audits, and are structured to assess systems, identify opportunities for improvement and develop recommendations for improvements. As well, the internal auditor assists in co-operative projects and programs, serving as part of a team providing strategic departmental reviews requested by senior management. These reviews are used to help the department achieve its objectives in budgeting and in manpower and expenditure control.

During 1983-84 the office reviewed all externally prepared audit reports as part of the consulting service it provides to the department's senior management. One operational and three financial audits were completed.

Labour Division

The Labour Division is responsible for the development, administration and evaluation of policies, programs and services in support of the *Employment Standards Act*, the *Industrial Wages Security Act*, certain sections of the *Labour Relations Act*, the *Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act* and the *Pension Benefits Act*.

The division's objectives are to assist parties in creating a positive labour relations climate in the province; to reduce confrontation in the workplace; to safeguard employee entitlements under private pension plans; and to encourage the evolution of an environment in which economic and social needs of employees may be realized through work.

The programs and services required to meet these objectives are carried out by the division's three branches: Employment Standards, Mediation Services and Pension Benefits.

During the period covered by this report each of the branches experienced a consistent demand for its services. In each case the demand was due, in part, to the continuing downturn in the economy.

Employment Standards Branch

The Employment Standards Branch is responsible for ensuring that employers and employees are aware of and acting in accordance with their responsibilities under the *Employment Standards Act* and the *Industrial Wages Security Act*. Branch administration provides province-wide guidance for the development, administration and evaluation of policies and programs supporting this service. The three main programs provided to meet the branch's responsibilities are the Compliance, Education and Special Employment Programs. These programs are administered to ensure that employers and employees are aware of their rights and responsibilities regarding the regulating of hours of work; the payment of wages, vacation and general holiday pay; the termination of employment; maternity benefits; and the employment of adolescents and young persons.

The varied responsibilities of the branch are carried out through field offices located in Calgary, Edmonton, Edson, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer and St. Paul; head office is in Edmonton.

Compliance Program

This program involves the investigation of claims registered by employees who allege that their employers are not complying with the provisions of the *Employment Standards Act* or the *Industrial Wages Security Act*. An Employment Standards Officer investigates the claim on behalf of the grieved employee and may negotiate a settlement or issue orders, declarations or determinations which can be appealed by the employer or employee to an Umpire provided under the provisions of the Act.

Table 2 compares the activity of this program over the last three years. The number of claims filed has dropped 11% since the last report, and this reduction has had a slight effect on the number of employees affected and the amount of money collected. The change is understandable, since 1982-83 was a period in which the number of business closures and receiverships was extremely high. The 1983-84 figures tend to reflect a slightly greater economic stability than was evident in fiscal year 1981-82.

Table 3 provides a summary of umpire system activity and the disposition of hearings. The resolution of disputes through the umpire system, which has a quasi-judicial function, in most instances precludes a court action and speeds up the settlement process. There were considerably fewer appeals in the Northern Region than in the Southern Region; this trend is consistent with our other statistical data, suggesting that the impact of the present economic recession was initially greater on the north than on the south.

Education Program

The Employment Standards Branch Education Program assists employers, employees and the public by fostering a general awareness of provincial labour legislation in the workplace.

Information relating to the *Employment Standards Act*, branch programs and the role and purpose of the branch are effectively communicated through workshops, seminars and participation at association conferences and trade fairs. Workshops were held regularly in Edmonton and Calgary and in rural districts throughout the province. This year the branch emphasized participation in both small business fairs and chamber of commerce trade fairs, where the requirements of Alberta's labour legislation were of primary interest.

Labour Division

In 1983-84 the Education Program attempted to maintain or increase participation levels with no increase in program cost. The figures in Table 4 reflect an overall increase of more than 25% in public participation, indicating the program's success in obtaining its goal with no decrease in service to the public.

Industrial Wages Security

The *Industrial Wages Security Act* is administered under the Special Employment Programs section of the branch. This Act governs the lumbering and coal mining industries and requires employers in these industries to file securities under trust conditions to ensure wage protection for their employees. Activities include claim intake, investigations and resolution, maintenance of the security account and specific education activities for employers and employees.

During the 1983-84 fiscal year several coal mines had temporary layoffs which decreased the activity in this industry, with the result that the security remained relatively constant. The lumber industry, however, became more active. The provision of the Act requiring the posting of security has been instrumental in the resolution of claims in this industry. The figures in Table 5 reflect an increase in lumber claim activity of approximately 37% over 1982-83. The amount of security also increased by 7% over the previous fiscal year.

Special Employment Programs

The Special Employment Programs section assists employers, employees and industries which encounter serious difficulties in adhering to the standard provisions of the *Employment Standards Act*.

A series of special programs enables the branch to recognize unusual employment conditions, if the need to do so is adequately demonstrated, while still ensuring that basic employment standards are retained. Public demand for the programs offered by the branch has been high, and participants have been generally satisfied with them.

A sampling of the activities involved in Special Employment Programs is contained in Table 6. Activities over the past year have ranged from providing assistance to individual employers and employees to aiding groups of employers and employees within special industries.

Mediation Services Branch

The Mediation Services Branch deals with mediation of collective bargaining impasses, preventive mediation and grievance arbitration appointments. Through its staff of mediators in Calgary and Edmonton the branch provides third-party assistance to labour and management in the prevention and resolution of labour disputes, and assists in the establishment of effective relationships between employees, unions and employers.

Preventive Mediation

During fiscal year 1983-84, the branch witnessed a dramatic increase in the use of the "grievance mediation" component of the Preventive Mediation Program. The increase, 60% over 1982-83, can be attributed primarily to the fact that the service is becoming more widely known to the labour-management community, and also to the fact that it has been highly successful in practice.

There was increased activity as well in the other components of the Preventive Mediation Program. This program makes available to labour and management the following assistance: relationship by objectives (RBO); joint training; grievance mediation; labour-management committees; and first agreement orientation. The branch conducted its first RBO program in November 1982, involving some 45 participants, and continues to offer it.

Grievance Arbitration

In dealing with grievance arbitration the branch provided assistance to the minister of labour in appointing arbitration board members and chairpersons, or single arbitrators, as required by the *Labour Relations Act*. During the fiscal year 59 appointments were made.

Dispute Resolution Activity

There was a great amount of activity in the public sector in 1983-84. Some 90 collective agreements, involving 25 000 teachers and their school boards, expired in December 1982, and negotiations spilled over into the 1983-84 fiscal year. Strikes resulted in only two instances, and these were of very short duration. Twenty-two of these disputes required the services of a mediator, and most agreements were reached in the fall of 1983.

There were also many disputes requiring resolution

between school boards and their support staff, as well as between towns, counties and municipalities and their employees. Agreements expiring in December 1982 spilled over into the new fiscal year, and numerous agreements expired in December 1983.

The fiscal year also witnessed the first disputes under new legislation in which a compulsory arbitration board was potentially part of the process. In one instance the minister used his legislative mandate and directed the parties back to the bargaining table; in the other, the parties proceeded to a board.

The downturn in Alberta's economy brought even lower settlements than were reported in the latter part of the last fiscal report. Several collective agreements were extended with no changes, some received no increases ("zero per cent increases"), and many witnessed considerable flexibility from the parties in their negotiation of altered working conditions. Specific information on settlements is published in *Collective Bargaining Scene/Labour Fact Book*, which is available from the Planning and Research Branch.

Collective bargaining disputes during the reporting period were somewhat longer than normal. It was not uncommon to have a dispute, with regular meetings spread over several months. Further details concerning the activities of the branch are shown in Table 7.

Pension Benefits Branch

The Pension Benefits Branch is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the *Pension Benefits Act*. The principal object of the Act is to encourage the creation of pension plans and to safeguard employees' entitlements to benefits promised under pension plans.

With the exception of certain exempted pension plans identified under Section 21 of the Regulations, the Act requires that every pension plan covering employees in Alberta be registered with the branch. Each of these plans must comply with the terms and conditions of the Act throughout the plan's lifetime.

In accordance with the Act, the branch has the power to reject pension plans that do not qualify for registration and can cancel Certificates of Registration previously issued. Branch staff monitor pension plans to ensure that they are administered correctly, that pension plan funds are sufficient to cover earned benefits, and that pension plan monies are prudently invested and managed.

As authorized by Section 5 of the Act, Alberta is a party to two agreements, one with the Government of Canada and the other with those provinces having legislation similar to the Act. Both agreements provide for the reciprocal registration, audit and inspection of pension plans. Under these agreements, a pension plan subject to the legislation of more than one authority is supervised by the authority which has jurisdiction over the greatest number of plan members.

The branch is also the repository for trust agreements relative to employee benefit plans filed under Section 151 of the *Labour Relations Act*. Filed trust agreements and amendments are reviewed for possible inadequacies or inconsistencies with regard to the intent and purpose of the agreement.

Plans Examined and Approved

As outlined in Table 8, the Pension Benefits Branch examined 317 new pension plans during the 1983-84 fiscal year. Of these, 315 received Certificates of Registration. This compares to 251 in 1982-83, 135 in 1981-82 and 65 in 1980-81.

The continued increase in the number of plans being registered since 1980 is a result of a decision by Revenue Canada, Taxation, to accept pension plans that provide benefits primarily for significant shareholders of a company and their relatives. Of the 315 plans that received Certificates of Registration in 1983-84, 247 provided benefits primarily for significant shareholders.

As of 31 March 1984 the branch was responsible for the supervision of 1546 pension plans, which included 58 plans awaiting approval for registration.

Under the reciprocal agreement provision of the *Pension Benefits Act*, six plans were transferred to the jurisdiction of Alberta, and four were transferred from Alberta to other jurisdictions. During the year under review, 713 amendments were approved to plans supervised by the branch.

In the year ending 31 March 1984, 106 plans, covering 6788 employees, were discontinued. Twenty-five of these, covering 249 employees, were discontinued be-

cause of financial problems. Twenty-four plans were discontinued because there were no members left. Fifteen were discontinued because they merged with other existing plans, and the plan members had their benefits transferred to the continuing registered pension plans. These 15 plans covered 6231 of the 6788 plan members affected by plan discontinuances in fiscal year 1983-84.

Contributions to pension plans supervised by the branch during 1983-84 totalled more than $306 million. This figure represents an increase of approximately 16% over the contributions made in the previous year.

Total employee contributions increased to approximately $54.9 million from the previous fiscal year's total of $48.5 million. Total employer contributions increased to $251.3 million, approximately 17% more than the employer contributions in the previous year. This increase in employer contributions was due mainly to the increased amount contributed to plans providing benefits primarily for significant shareholders of a company and their relatives.

Altogether, 232 851 employees were covered by the 1546 pension plans supervised by the branch. Of these employees, approximately 35% were employed in other jurisdictions. The number of Alberta employees covered by plans supervised by the branch increased approximately 3% from the previous fiscal year to 151 664.

Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities

Legislation similar to the *Pension Benefits Act* of Alberta has been enacted by the governments of Canada, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Authorized representatives of the various authorities are members of the Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities (CAPSA). During the period covered by this report, CAPSA met twice to review various aspects of pension plans and pension legislation. CAPSA continued its efforts towards achieving as much uniformity as possible in pension legislation.

Other Activities

As in previous years, the branch dealt with a large number of enquiries relating to pensions. It provided assistance to employees, employers and the pension industry.

The branch applied considerable effort to ensure that plans were amended to comply with legislative changes enacted by the various authorities outside Alberta. During the period covered by this report, the most extensive changes were those made to Manitoba's legislation, effective 1 January 1984.

Branch staff served as speakers at public pension meetings and seminars and also assisted pension plan administrators in tracing terminated plan members who were entitled to benefits.

General Safety Services Division

The object of the General Safety Services Division is to enhance the safety of life and property through the co-ordinated delivery of programs encouraging and facilitating acceptable safety standards. The areas of responsibility and the programs administered by the division cover a broad range of activities, from the inspection of complex industrial installations to construction in the home. The division's programs involve the development of equipment and installation standards, public safety education, training, inspections, the certification of tradesmen, work permits and certificates, plans review, investigations and support to municipalities.

The General Safety Services Division comprises the following branches: Boilers and Pressure Vessels, Building Standards, Electrical Protection, Elevator and Fixed Conveyances, Fire Prevention, and Plumbing and Gas Safety Services.

The division headquarters is located in Edmonton, and services are provided from field offices in 13 locations: Calgary, Camrose, Drumheller, Edmonton, Edson, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Peace River, Red Deer, St. Paul and Vermilion.

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch

The object of the Boilers and Pressure Vessels branch is to provide reasonable protection to life and property where boilers and pressure vessels are in use. The branch pursues this goal and encourages good safety practices by its administration of the *Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act* and Regulations, which provide for boilers, pressure vessels and pressure piping to be designed, constructed, installed and operated according to adopted standards.

The branch has regional offices in Calgary and Edmonton, and six district offices, in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer and St. Paul. Branch operations are divided into three main areas of activity: design surveys, inspections and examinations. The design survey, records and examinations sections are located at branch headquarters in Edmonton.

Design Surveys

Designs for boilers, pressure vessels and pressure piping systems are submitted to the branch for review and registration. The branch surveys them for compliance with regulations and with applicable codes governing sound engineering practices, material specifications, welding and construction procedures, and quality control systems.

During the reporting period the branch received 5326 designs, as is shown in Section A, Table 10. This indicates a decrease from the previous year when construction activity was extremely high, but the number of designs submitted was slightly in excess of the 1981-82 level.

There was a significant rise in the number of companies which have registered quality control programs authorizing them to engage in the construction and repair of boilers, pressure vessels and pressure piping systems: from 120 in 1982-83 to 141 in 1983-84, an increase of 17.5%. The number of certificates of authorization issued during the year under review was 72, an increase of 38.5% over the previous year.

Inspections

The branch inspects and tests boilers and pressure vessels during and after construction and after installation, at which time it issues certificates to permit their operation in Alberta. Inspections during construction generally take place in fabricating shops. However, most projects involving refineries and chemical and power-generating plants have large boilers and pressure vessels which, because of their size, must be built on-site, and these are inspected and tested in the field. The branch carries out service inspections as required during the operating life of the boiler or pressure vessel.

A high level of construction of pressure vessels was maintained during the early part of the year, but construction of larger custom-built pressure vessels declined as contractors finished a number of large projects. Some of the vessels built during the year were exported to the USSR; several large units were constructed for installation on a platform in the Beaufort Sea; and a number of vessels were constructed for the Southeast Asian market, Australia and New Zealand.

Section B in Table 10 shows that in 1983-84 the total number of inspections decreased to 35 662 from 39 035 in 1982-83. Restraints on recruitment and the emphasis placed on quality control programs in lieu of inspections contributed to the 8.6% decrease in inspec-

tions completed. Inspection staff continued to identify a large number of potential hazards, and in every case measures were taken to correct the situation.

Examinations

Persons who operate power and heating plants, and those who are employed to weld boilers, pressure vessels or pressure piping systems, must obtain certificates of competency issued by the branch. The branch awards certificates for power engineers, pressure welders and building operators upon their successful completion of examinations. These examinations, conducted in all branch regional offices, are designed to ensure that certificate holders have the standards of experience, competency and knowledge required in their respective fields.

Section D in Table 10 shows a decrease in the number of pressure welder examinations conducted in 1983-84 compared with the previous year; nevertheless, the level of this activity was still 16% higher than in the year 1981-82. The welder training facilities at Lethbridge Community College were expanded and upgraded, with the result that the branch's welder testing program has improved in that region.

The table also shows that the previous high level of engineers' and building operators' examinations conducted remained high during the year and was not adversely affected by prevailing economic circumstances.

Other Activities

The branch investigates accidents involving boilers, pressure vessels, power plants, heating plants and pressure plants to identify causes and prevent the recurrence of accidents. Its investigations also assist in determining whether legislative changes are necessary. Section E in Table 10 shows that the number of accident investigations was 42, compared with 38 in 1982-83 and 47 in 1981-82.

The branch accomplished a great deal during the year in safety communications, developing several information guides to assist owners and companies involved with boilers and pressure vessels. These guides included information to assist companies to obtain certificates of authorization qualifying them to retest and inspect anhydrous ammonia and liquefied petroleum gas cargo transport vessels; to assist persons in obtaining certificates of authorization qualifying them to modify or repair boilers and pressure vessels; and to assist contractors in obtaining certificates of authorization qualifying them to construct pressure piping systems.

A consultant reviewed the programs and services provided by the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch with the object of developing recommendations for the future.

Building Standards Branch

The object of the Building Standards Branch is to assure reasonable safeguards to life, health, property and public welfare in (1) the design, construction or occupancy of new buildings and (2) the alteration, reconstruction, demolition, removal, relocation or change of occupancy classification of existing buildings. To this end the branch monitors the application of the standards set out in the *Alberta Building Code*.

The branch monitors standards compliance largely through authorized municipalities, which administer and enforce the *Alberta Building Code*. Of the 352 municipalities in Alberta, 302 have requested and received authority to administer and enforce the code within their boundaries. The branch provides administrative and technical advice on building code requirements, enforcement and material approval to all municipalities in the province. The branch also assists small municipalities in code enforcement by reviewing plans and inspecting the more complex projects.

As part of its responsibility for the general safety of the public, the branch operates a materials approval system that evaluates building products and practices for compliance with the building code objectives. Although a manufacturer may obtain municipal acceptance for its building products, such approval is valid only for the particular municipality where it is granted. Evaluation of building products by the branch can provide province-wide acceptance if a manufacturer wishes.

The branch, in its assistance programs for small municipalities and in response to special requests, reviews building plans for all classes of buildings and carries out inspections of some construction work in progress. Table 11 shows that, during the reporting period, the branch examined plans for 1653 building projects involving a total floor area of 904 153 square metres and an estimated value of $497 million.

These figures indicate approximately a 14% decrease

in the number of projects the branch handled, but the total floor area of building remained close to the value of the previous year. This would indicate an increase in the size of the projects being built and some stabilization in industrial/commercial and institutional construction volumes. Inspection backlogs have been eliminated and inspectors have been able to maintain the desired minimum frequency of inspections.

With the object of uniform application and improving understanding of building standards legislation, the branch also develops and conducts training programs for municipal and provincial inspectors, and seminars and workshops for individuals and associations involved in the construction, alteration and occupancy of buildings. The branch undertook to update previously-issued *Standata* bulletins and published one new administrative bulletin and two new technical bulletins.

The branch initiated a major thrust to improve the reliability of fire alarm systems through a joint department-industry meeting, and undertook to develop a technical bulletin to consolidate all requirements in one location. To reduce overlap between departments, the matter of airport vicinity noise control through building construction was transferred from the *Planning Act* regulations to the *Alberta Building Code*.

The branch's Committee for the Review of Building Standards for the Handicapped held a meeting to review the Klufas report, and proposed changes for the 1985 *Alberta Building Code* and the Alberta *Elevator Code*.

The branch provides a secretariat for the Building Standards Council, whose function is to hear appeals relating to building inspectors' orders and to act in an advisory capacity to the minister and the department.

The Alberta Building Standards Council received 25 appeals during the period 1 April 1983 to 31 March 1984. Two ad hoc committees were formed, one to receive public input and proposals on sprinkler requirements for larger buildings, and the other to receive public views on noise abatement requirements for hospitals, schools and residential buildings adjacent to major arterial roadways. The council provided advice to the minister of labour on the proposed *Alberta Fire Code* and identified changes that should be made in the *Alberta Building Code* to ensure compatibility between the two codes.

Electrical Protection Branch

The object of the Electrical Protection Branch is to minimize the incidence of electrical accidents and damage to property in Alberta. Electrical safety programs are developed under authority of the *Electrical Protection Act* and are designed to encourage individual and corporate understanding in order to achieve reasonable electrical safety goals. The branch delivers programs through the head office in Edmonton and twelve regional offices located throughout the province. Branch activities are divided into three major categories: standards development; regulatory programs consisting of inspections and investigations; and an electrical safety education program directed to members of the electrical industry and the public at large. A statistical summary of the branch's activities is presented in Table 12.

Standards Development Program

Branch personnel participate in provincial and national standards development activities that are instrumental in providing safe electrical equipment, installations and work procedures for industry and the general public.

In consultation with members representing various segments of the industry, the branch reviewed the 1982 edition of the *Canadian Electrical Code, Part I*, for adoption and application in Alberta. It prepared an 82-page special quarterly bulletin listing the amendments and providing other pertinent technical information. In excess of 13 500 copies were distributed to members of the electrical industry in Alberta, as well as to other inspection authorities.

In co-operation with the electrical utility companies in Alberta, the branch reviewed a number of safety standards, and in doing so developed additional safe-work practices for tree trimmers and oilfield workers who work near energized high-voltage power lines. A study was also conducted of procedures to be used by persons engaged in barehand live-line work.

The branch actively participated in 30 of the 200 committees that are responsible for developing national safety standards for electrical equipment. As a result, a number of improvements were made to existing national standards as they relate to the design and approval of electrical equipment to be used in Alberta. These changes have provided a direct benefit to the industry. For example, provision was made in the standard for the

General Safety Services Division

manufacture of special flexible stranded cable for use on drilling rigs. Another change initiated by the branch was to expand existing standards for large electrical control equipment. This change provides for special construction features whereby the equipment can be safely used to supply the main power service to buildings.

Regulatory Program

This program includes permit issuing; inspection services: the review of plans for residential, commercial and industrial wiring installations; local approval of electrical equipment; and certification of electrical workers.

Permit services facilitate an inspection program designed to provide reasonable electrical safety for the public. Electrical permits are issued to electrical contractors and to homeowners installing their own wiring. The total number of inspections made in the current year was 52 756, which is 2.6% lower than the previous year. Work permits received were down 4.6%. Investigations of fatal and non-fatal electrical accidents increased by 12.7%. The number of electrocutions dropped from seven persons to four. Investigations of fires suspected of having an electrical origin increased by 16.7%. Technical interviews, which involve enquiries and other technical advisory services, increased 2.5% over the previous year. The 85 177 interviews covered a wide range of technical and safety subjects relating to the delivery of all branch programs.

The electrical equipment approval program is designed to identify and stop the manufacture and distribution of unsafe electrical equipment which could be a shock or fire hazard. The branch accomplishes this end by making inspections at manufacturing and distribution points and responding to complaints regarding unsafe and unapproved electrical equipment being offered for sale. When specialized electrical equipment is needed for a particular operation, and CSA-approved equipment is not available, industry may avail itself of the approval service offered by the branch. The approval service provides the Alberta manufacturer of electrical equipment with an opportunity to establish market viability before it enters into a certification agreement with CSA to enable widespread marketing outside of Alberta. Activities relating to the approval of electrical equipment remained relatively unchanged from the high level of the previous year.

The certification of electrical workers program provides the means of maintaining a satisfactory level of expertise for electrical workers who perform work for the public. The branch issues annually-renewable certificates to electrical contractors. The number of master and restricted master electricians increased by 2.7% over the previous report period.

Electrical Safety Education Program

The branch conducted a public safety awareness program which included investigating and documenting electrical accidents and fires suspected of having an electrical origin. The branch distributed safety literature and held safety seminars in response to demonstrated needs.

The number of overhead power line contacts resulting in serious injuries, deaths and damage to equipment has increased dramatically over the past few years, and the branch placed greater emphasis on safety education programs in this area. The branch conducted a number of electrical safety education seminars for persons whose work requires them to operate or move equipment near overhead power lines, and a brochure titled "Help Yourself to Electrical Safety in Industry" was developed. Fifteen thousand copies were distributed to the industry, and another 15 000 have been ordered to meet popular demand.

Seminar activity increased as the branch conducted sessions to advise industry of changes in the latest edition of the *Canadian Electrical Code, Part I*.

Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch

The object of the Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch is to develop and implement programs to ensure that a high level of safety is maintained on vertical, horizontal and inclined transportation systems in buildings and recreational areas. These programs cover many types of equipment, including passenger and freight elevators, elevating devices for the handicapped, platform lifts, escalators, moving walkways, dumbwaiters, personnel hoists, power manlifts, inclined passenger lifts, aerial tramways, gondolas, chair lifts, T-bars, rope tows and all types of amusement rides.

The work of the branch is divided into three major areas of activity: review of drawings, inspections and tests, and accident investigation. The branch reviews drawings and specifications to check for conformity to

General Safety Services Division

regulations, and it carries out inspections and tests to determine whether equipment is installed and maintained according to accepted standards for public safety. The branch conducts accident investigations in an effort to determine causes, to evaluate the adequacy of regulations and to help prevent similar accidents from occurring. It is also involved in the development of regulations pertaining to equipment covered by the inspection program through co-operation with industry, the Canadian Standards Association and other regulatory associations.

Table 13 provides statistical data on major activities during the reporting period and permits comparisons with the two previous years. A decrease in the number of new installations, which involve time-consuming inspections, provided an opportunity to reduce a backlog of reinspections. This resulted in an 11% increase in the total number of inspections made.

In April 1983, CSA Standard B355, *Safety Code for Elevating Devices for the Handicapped*, was adopted to regulate the installation and operation of lifts for the handicapped in Alberta. The standard deals with a number of types of elevating devices and has resulted in greatly improved accessibility for handicapped persons to facilities in residential and public buildings, including schools. Several Alberta firms using the new standard are now successfully involved in the manufacture, supply and installation of these devices throughout the province.

During the reporting period the first indoor amusement ride complex in Canada was opened in West Edmonton Mall's Fantasyland. The project consists of nine major rides and several stationary attractions such as slides and mazes. Branch personnel were extensively involved with the developers and various contractors during the preliminary design and construction periods, providing assistance with regard to regulations, safety requirements, and inspections and tests at appropriate intervals.

The Canadian Association of Exhibitions held its annual convention in Edmonton for the first time last year. Of special interest was that part of the program which dealt with amusement-ride operation, maintenance and safety, at which a number of provincial and out-of-province inspection authorities were represented.

Fire Prevention Branch

The Fire Prevention Branch strives to minimize the number of fires, the number of injuries and deaths caused by fires and the amount of fire-related property damage in Alberta.

Branch personnel inspect buildings and facilities in an effort to ensure that they meet acceptable levels of fire safety. Staff conduct detailed investigations of fires throughout the province and assist police and fire departments engaged in fire investigations. The branch gives high priority to the investigation of fire deaths, arson fires and fires involving large property loss. Staff members develop and present training and information programs for members of municipal and industrial fire departments in Alberta. In addition to providing technical assistance to municipalities on fire prevention and protection, staff also conduct fire-safety education programs for the general public and collect and disseminate statistical information on fires.

During fiscal year 1983-84 the development of an Alberta fire code was a major undertaking. Revisions to the *Fire Prevention Act* in 1983 provided a suitable legislative base for the development of a fire code for Alberta. The purpose of the code is to replace the fire bylaws of individual municipalities with uniform fire safety regulations applicable throughout the province. The *National Fire Code of Canada*, published by the National Research Council, was accepted as the base document. A draft of the proposed code was distributed to numerous organizations, companies, fire departments, municipalities, government agencies and interested individuals with a request for comment. Forty-three briefs were received in response to the request and included over 400 items of concern to those who submitted them. Branch staff and the members of the Fire Prevention Council reviewed each brief and incorporated appropriate changes. Following this review, the council recommended that the revised document be considered for adoption as the *Alberta Fire Code*.

Providing programs aimed at fire prevention is a major activity of the branch. Staff offer various services directed to this end, including public education programs dealing with the hazards of fire, sources of ignition and methods of preparing for a fire. Staff also provide inspection services at regional offices throughout Alberta. The branch places special emphasis on the inspection

General Safety Services Division

of assembly, institutional and residential buildings in smaller centres where the fire prevention resources of the fire departments are limited. Table 14 indicates that the number of inspections conducted by branch personnel increased by 9% over the previous year. Apartments, hotels and motels were given high priority during the year in order to ensure that fire alarm systems and detection devices were functioning as intended.

The Fire Prevention Council, which was established last year, effectively carried out its responsibilities as an appeal body and as an advisory body to the minister. In addition to its major undertaking of reviewing submissions for the fire code, the council heard appeals against nine orders.

The branch prepared a special training guide, *Fire Safety Planning for Health Care Facilities in Alberta*, and presented it to a number of hospitals and nursing homes, which are using it as their training manual. The guide has been well received, and a number of health-care-related agencies and departments in other provinces have requested copies.

A fire prevention education program was conducted at 47 schools, and 3695 students in grades four, five and six attended. In addition, approximately 30 000 people, in 11 shopping malls and at two major fairs, saw an eight-panel display which promoted fire prevention, planning for fire and surviving fire.

Regional fire prevention committees made up of fire department representatives continue to meet regularly with branch staff to discuss concerns about fire prevention and inspection programs. Of particular significance is the increased interest in fire prevention at the municipal level generated through these organizations.

Each year police and fire officials throughout the province subject a number of fire losses to detailed examination. This type of investigation is usually carried out when a death occurs as a result of fire, when arson is suspected, when the cause of a fire is not known or when a major loss occurs. During 1983-84, 1092 of these detailed investigations took place, and Fire Prevention Branch staff investigators were called upon to assist in 318. The investigations conducted during the year revealed 780 arson fires, a reduction of 31% from the previous year.

Another major activity of the branch is the training of municipal and industrial fire department personnel. In order to make the most effective use of the department's Alberta Fire Training School at Vermilion, the branch has placed a new emphasis on training by local fire departments. The school provides all course material and the necessary training aids, and the local municipality provides instructors. Each successful candidate receives a certificate issued by the school. This arrangement releases the facilities at Vermilion in order that the special training aids available at the school may be more effectively utilized. The number of persons participating in courses sponsored by the Alberta Fire Training School increased by 15% during the year.

As an aid to interested parties, the branch presented three special one-day seminars covering the subjects of breathing apparatus, fire extinguishers and water supplies for firefighting. Attendance at the seminars was 208. This type of presentation generates a great deal of local interest and increases the demand for further fire safety education. Table 14 provides additional information on the branch's training programs.

During the 1983-84 fiscal year the branch awarded a contract to an Alberta engineering firm to perform the second phase of a study on the costs of smoke control systems in high buildings. The first phase of the study, completed during 1982-83, had already confirmed that the installation cost of sprinkler systems compared favourably with that of other methods of smoke control. The second phase, which addressed the question of maintenance costs, showed that the maintenance cost of sprinkler systems compared favourably to that of most other smoke control systems. The study has generated a lot of interest among architects and engineers. A paper outlining the findings of the study was presented at the National Fire Protection Association's fall meeting in Orlando, Florida. Copies of the paper are available from the Fire Prevention Branch.

Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch

The object of the Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch is to assist in creating a climate in which individuals and plumbing and gas industries fulfill their responsibilities to maintain a safe environment for the public with respect to plumbing installations, sewage disposal systems and the distribution and use of natural and propane gases. The branch pursues this goal through the administration of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act*, the

Gas Protection Act and regulations governing the acceptance, installation, alteration, repair and maintenance of plumbing and gas systems.

Branch programs include standards development, the issuance of permits for plumbing and gas installations and sewage disposal systems, field inspections, the certification of tradesmen, equipment testing and approvals, public education, industry training and accident investigations. These programs are administered through a head office and twelve regional offices located throughout the province.

As in previous years, the branch maintained a laboratory for the testing of unique gas-fired equipment for which it is not practical or feasible to obtain certification from a national laboratory such as the Canadian Gas Association. Some additional facilities were included in the laboratory to provide for the testing of plumbing equipment and plumbing systems. The new plumbing systems testing area will be used to test various configurations of venting systems for plumbing installations.

Of significance during the 1983-84 fiscal year was the development of installation requirements for modern, improved-efficiency gas heating equipment. The units incorporate new technology such as condensing-type heat exchangers and pulse combustion. Design improvements allow these units to be vented directly to the outside through plastic pipes, eliminating the need for costly conventional brick chimneys or metal vents. Installations of the new units and the advanced venting systems associated with them are being closely monitored by the branch and the gas industry to ensure that operational problems will not develop in changing weather conditions.

In March 1984, in co-operation with the office of the chief medical examiner, Attorney General's Department, and the Transportation Safety Branch of Alberta Transportation, the branch initiated a multi-media awareness campaign promoting safety with respect to carbon monoxide. The campaign was designed to improve public awareness and understanding of the hazards associated with carbon monoxide in the home and in vehicles, and the steps that can be taken to avoid the danger. The departments worked together to develop news features, brochures and public-service radio announcements to help the public guard against this insidious killer. In addition, media interviews were scheduled with spokesmen from the three departments involved, and a special public-service announcement was prepared for broadcast at drive-in movie theatres.

During the year, regulations respecting the conversion of vehicles from gasoline to propane were developed and adopted as amendments to the *Regulations Governing Propane Installations*. The new regulations contain requirements for the indoor private and public parking of the converted vehicles, their identification by means of labels, and methods of installing propane fuel tanks, piping and tubing systems and other components. Approximately 3000 vehicles were converted in the province during the year. This brings the total of propane-operated vehicles in Alberta to approximately 15 000. The branch provided a monitoring type of inspection program at vehicle conversion stations to check for compliance with the new regulations. Because of the increase in the use of propane in highway vehicles, the number of propane refuelling stations increased dramatically, to an estimated 600 outlets.

There was a new trend toward the conversion of vehicles from gasoline to compressed natural gas. During the year 250 vehicles were converted, and natural gas compressors were installed at three locations to provide refuelling facilities. The branch inspected the converted vehicles and the refuelling stations to check for compliance with existing safety standards. In co-operation with the national laboratories and Canadian Code Committees, the branch is developing updated requirements for these installations.

During the reporting period, the *Regulations Governing Gasfitters' Certification* were amended. The amendment provides for a limited exemption from certification requirements and allows refrigeration mechanics to carry out all the necessary maintenance work on combined gas heating and cooling equipment. Prior to the amendment it was necessary to obtain the services of refrigeration mechanics for the cooling sections and gasfitters for the heating sections.

Table 15 shows that there was a slight reduction in the total number of plumbing and gas installation permits issued, from 32 319 in 1982-83 to 31 831 in 1983-84, or approximately 1.5%. The number of field inspections increased by approximately 11.4%. The increase was achieved through improved efficiencies, which were due to the amalgamation of the Plumbing Inspection Branch and the Gas Protection Branch. In many cases the combined inspector can conduct an inspection of a plumbing installation and a gas installation at the same time.

The branch placed greater emphasis on public education and, as indicated in Table 15, branch participation at public meetings rose from 127 to 294, an increase of approximately 131%. These public meetings have proved to be extremely beneficial in impressing on the

General Safety Services Division

public the need to maintain plumbing and gas systems in good condition.

There was a slight decline from the previous year in the overall number of accidents; however, there was no change in the total number of fatal accidents. Of the five fatal accidents investigated, one involved a natural gas explosion and four involved carbon monoxide poisoning from the misuse of unvented gas heaters in confined spaces.

Alberta Labour Relations Board

The Alberta Labour Relations Board is a quasi-judicial tribunal which administers the *Labour Relations Act*, Chapter L 1-1, *Revised Statutes of Alberta 1980*. Under this Act, the board certifies trade unions as collective bargaining agents for employees; investigates and hears complaints of contraventions of the Act and grants remedial orders where the Act has been contravened; issues directives and declarations where unlawful strikes and lockouts have occurred; registers employers' organizations as employer bargaining agents in the construction industry; and governs the procedures by which a trade union may proceed to lawful strike and by which an employer or an employers' organization may proceed to lawful lockout.

Composition

The board is composed of a chairman, 2 vice-chairmen, 7 employer representatives and 7 trade union representatives. All are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Under the Act the board may sit in two or more divisions, provided a quorum is present in each division (a quorum being the chairman or a vice-chairman and at least 2 board members). The board endeavours to balance this quorum by selecting one member from management and one member from among the trade unions' representatives.

It is common for two divisions to be sitting simultaneously. Although most cases are heard in Edmonton and Calgary, applications involving a substantial number of witnesses are generally heard near the employer's location.

Administration

Under the general supervision of the chairman, the secretary supervises the administrative operations of the board and is responsible for the day-to-day performance of the board's administrative functions. Reporting to the secretary are two registrars, one in Edmonton for northern Alberta and one in Calgary for southern Alberta.

The board employs three labour relations officers and two support staff in its Calgary office and three labour relations officers and five support personnel in the Edmonton office. The board also employs a solicitor, who reports directly to the chairman.

Initiatives in 1983-84

The board initiated a policy whereby employees affected by an application for certification are advised of this prior to any determinations by the board as to whether certification will be issued. This is achieved by the posting of a "Notice to Employees" on the employer's premises advising them of the application. It provides for a period of time in which employees may make their views known to the board.

Because of the unavailability of legal counsel, witnesses, etc., the board has experienced some unacceptable delays in bringing matters in dispute before a panel of the board for settlement. In an effort to reduce this problem, the board has developed a procedure which allows the registrars to schedule hearings on the basis of priority and expediency without prior consultation with the parties affected. Should one of the parties be unable to appear at the time scheduled, he must obtain the agreement of the other party to another time.

Caseload

During the fiscal year the board received a total of 707 applications for certification, an increase of 435 (160%) over the 272 applications submitted in 1982-83. Most of the increase occurred late in the year, in the form of an unprecedented number of applications for certification received in the final two months. The sudden rise in volume began immediately following a Court of Queen's Bench decision by the Honourable Mr. Justice Dea on 12 January 1984, which overturned a previous board decision affecting the Alberta Roadbuilders Association and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 955 (LRB July 1983).

The "Dea Decision" ruled that, in summary, because of the specific wording in the *Labour Relations Act*, continuation clauses which provided for the current collective agreement to continue until a new agreement was entered into, or on commencement of strike or lockout action by the parties, were invalid. This decision was itself subsequently overturned, but while it was in effect the Labour Relations Board experienced a sharp rise in its caseload which would carry over into fiscal year 1984-85.

The number of illegal strikes or lockouts was significantly lower, from 65 in 1982-83 to 5 in 1983-84. This drop can be attributed to an appreciable reduction in the number of construction projects and a significant decrease in "union" projects.

The board gives both oral and written decisions; in the reporting period it issued 65 written decisions. During the fiscal year 32 challenges to board decisions were taken to court and subsequently concluded (an increase of 9 applications over the previous year).

Personnel Changes

Four new members were appointed to the board by order-in-council. These appointments were to fill vacan-

Alberta Labour Relations Board

cies created by transfers of previous members or the expiry of appointments of incumbent members.

In addition, Mr. Clint Mellors, vice-chairman, assumed the position of assistant deputy minister with the Department of Labour in July 1983. In January 1984 the chairman, Mr. Ross McBain, QC, accepted a call to the Court of Queen's Bench as a judge. In filling the resulting vacancy the board was very fortunate in securing Mr. Al Dubensky, QC, who was at that time deputy minister of labour. Mr. Dubensky had been chairman of the board prior to his appointment as deputy minister in 1980.

Tables

Table 1

Statistics and Information Unit
Summary of telephone information requests
for the year ending 31 March 1984

Type of request	Number
Calls transferred or referred elsewhere	21
Occupational wage rates (or minimum wage)	158
Union membership figures or directory	62
Wage settlement program	138
Strike statistics information	48
Collective agreement enquiries	294
(Includes employers seeking copies, requests for samples of specific provisions, further explanation of analysis, public viewing, etc.)	
Arbitration award information	22
Publications	197
TOTAL	940

Table 2

Investigation and Recovery Proceedings
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Field investigations			
Claims registered	10 009	11 837	10 521
Employees benefiting from investigations	12 885	15 492	12 695
Money collected through field investigations			
Non-payment of wages	$1 167 872	$1 668 531	$1 465 125
Underpayment of minimum wages	7 433	13 982	10 320
Overtime arrears	420 028	294 900	298 046
Vacation pay	325 793	440 606	387 685
General holiday pay	76 251	66 871	72 331
Pay in lieu of notice	170 111	255 942	254 253
Other	54 551	23 249	8 950
TOTAL	$2 222 039	$2 764 081	$2 496 710

Tables

Table 3

Umpire System Activity Report

for the year ending 31 March 1984

	North	% of Total	South	% of Total	Total
Number of appeals	151	30	356	70	507
Employers affected	151	30	356	70	507
Employees affected	761	53	666	47	1 427
Appeal Type					
Officers' orders	136	29	327	71	463
Third party collections	7	33	14	67	21
Officers' determination (exemptions)	2	50	2	50	4
Declaration of officer (single employer)	6	32	13	68	19
Disposition					
Confirmed	349	52	324	48	673
Varied	41	34	79	66	120
Revoked	18	34	35	66	53
Abandoned	260	92	24	8	284
Director revoked	0	0	39	100	39
Bankruptcy — stayed	0	0	0	0	0
Decision reserved	18	69	8	31	26
Appeal not heard	75	32	157	68	232

Table 4

Educational Services Program
Comparative statistical summary

for the two years ending 31 March 1983 and 1984

	Number Held		Attendance	
	1982-83	1983-84	1982-83	1983-84
Type of activity				
Workshop on Wages (Payday Survival)	99	146	2 420	3 900
World of Work (high school)	37	36	1 847	1 069
Speaking engagements	67	80	2 565	2 241
Other — trade shows	0	8	0	2 350
TOTAL	203	270	6 832	9 560

Table 5

Industrial Wages Security Act
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Money collected under the Act	$ 28 171	$ 64 630	$ 88 398
Employees benefiting:			
Lumber industry	258	377	348
Coal mining industry	1	6	0
TOTAL	259	383	348
Amount of security held at year end:			
Lumber industry	$1 545 204	$1 540 589	$1 668 359
Coal mining industry	53 584	58 169	50 060
TOTAL	$1 598 788	$1 598 758	$1 718 419
Active Exemption Certificates:			
Lumber industry	21	23	21
Coal mining industry	11	14	14
TOTAL	32	37	35

Table 6

Special Employment Programs
Comparative statistical summary
for the two years ending 31 March 1983 and 1984

	1982-83	1983-84
Oil well servicing & trucking (pay plans)	19	23
Overtime agreements	49	17
Extended hours of work	61	26
Contracts of employment	289	368

Tables

Table 7

Mediation Branch Statistical Summary

for the two years ending 31 March 1983 and 1984

	1982-83	1983-84
Conciliation/Mediation		
Disputes pending at April 1	82	60
Conciliators/mediators appointed	220	174
Dispositions of disputes:		
Settled without strike or lockout action	211	164
Settled after strike or lockout action	25	10
Sent to voluntary arbitration	1	1
Sent to arbitration under the Firefighters and Policemen Labour Relations Act	1	1
Compulsory arbitration boards (Section 117)	0	1
Disputes pending at March 31	60	57
Strikes and lockouts		
Strikes	15	6
Lockouts	9	4
Preventive mediation		
First agreement orientation cases	52	44
Grievance mediation	25	40
Labour-management committees	14	0
Joint training	1	0
Relationship by objectives	1	0
Consultation	0	8
Educational meeting	0	4
Other	0	1

Table 8

Pension Plans Approved, Cancelled, Transferred or Amended

Total at 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1982*	1983*	Change during year	1984*
Plans examined	2 873	3 128	317	3 445
Plans "approved" (registration)	2 785	3 036	315	3 351
Plans transferred to Alberta supervision	124	132	6	138
Plans transferred from Alberta supervision	143	147	4	151
Plans cancelled	1 734	1 838	106	1 944
Amendments to "approved" plans	8 455	9 340	713	10 053
Annual information returns **	19 844	21 041	1 202	22 243

* These columns show totals since 1 January 1967.

** An annual information return is submitted in respect of every pension plan and provides data regarding contributions to the plan, plan membership, terminations and retirements.

Table 9

General Safety Services Division
Selected statistics
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Inspections carried out	149 394	154 238	156 884
Work permits and work certificates issued	110 518	91 564	88 912
Workers certified	11 374	15 085	14 128
Investigations conducted	779	748	698
Examinations given	12 013	14 792	12 932
Plans examined	24 859	26 552	23 999
Meetings and seminars conducted	8 556	9 666	10 627

Tables

Table 10

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

		1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
A.	**Designs processed**			
	Designs submitted	5 264	6 894	5 326
	Designs accepted	4 838	5 320	3 916
	Designs rejected	221	265	223
	Design revisions	984	1 658	1 177
B.	**Inspections carried out**			
	High pressure boilers	1 640	1 936	1 589
	Low pressure boilers	4 010	4 445	4 592
	Receivers	8 690	6 690	5 365
	Heat exchangers	2 617	3 416	2 730
	Process vessels	5 720	5 596	5 715
	Miscellaneous	1 010	893	768
	Progress inspections	18 317	16 059	14 903
	TOTAL	42 004	39 035	35 662
C.	**Potential hazards found in service inspections**			
	Safety valve seized or inoperable	1 140	1 014	1 077
	Low water fuel cut-off inoperable	142	119	166
	Free air inlet inadequate	94	30	28
	Heating surface of boiler heavily scaled	214	184	239
	Severe corrosion requiring repairs	825	690	802
	Miscellaneous unsafe conditions	840	775	810
	Insufficient safety valve capacity	92	82	95
	Boiler water gauge glass inoperable	23	24	26
	Accessories requiring repair	131	155	183
	Condemned or ordered out of service	6	14	6
	TOTAL	3 507	3 087	3 432
D.	**Examinations conducted**			
	Engineers and building operators	5 461	5 406	5 320
	Pressure welders	6 128	8 700	7 106
	Examinations passed			
	Engineers and building operators	4 221	4 212	3 910
	Pressure welders	4 714	6 575	6 054
E.	**Accidents investigated**			
	Accidents	47	38	42
	Injuries	10	15	6
	Fatalities	3	0	0

Table 11

Building Standards Branch
Summary statistics (General plus Mechanical)
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Building plans examined	2 271	1 920	1 653
Floor area (m^2)	1 398 000	975 140	904 153
Estimated value ($)	769 000 000	536 000 000	497 000 000
Inspections carried out	4 067	4 400	5 216
General Statistics			
Building plans examined			
Assembly	342	313	357
Institutional	36	37	40
Residential:			
General	195	136	101
Single family	425	456	300
Business and personal services	125	100	88
Mercantile	94	56	75
Industrial	377	251	222
TOTAL	1 594	1 349	1 183
Floor area (m^2)			
Assembly	382 081	265 751	290 249
Institutional	63 558	90 453	155 886
Residential:			
General	269 641	176 842	124 321
Single family	77 513	71 384	51 755
Business and personal services	98 959	110 724	49 354
Mercantile	92 267	33 044	44 527
Industrial	413 967	226 941	188 061
TOTAL	1 397 986	975 139	904 153
Estimated value ($)	769 000 000	536 000 000	497 000 000
Inspections carried out	3 509	3 439	4 134
Mechanical Statistics			
Building plans examined			
Assembly	216	231	229
Institutional	24	35	36
Residential:			
General	124	70	41
Single family	4	8	6
Business and personal services	67	63	48
Mercantile	52	34	32
Industrial	189	130	78
TOTAL	676	571	470

Tables

Table 11
(Cont'd.)

Building Standards Branch
Summary statistics (General plus Mechanical)
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Floor area (m^2)			
Assembly	295 247	312 505	283 667
Institutional	51 001	99 645	167 163
Residential:			
General	160 684	118 187	108 468
Single family	1 346	1 664	1 377
Business and personal services	86 455	111 814	32 615
Mercantile	70 542	31 734	28 352
Industrial	278 317	182 004	117 760
TOTAL	943 592	857 553	739 402
Inspections carried out	558	961	1 082
Technical Program Statistics			
Training and education programs			
Students enrolled in courses	204	249	238
Assignments marked	1 507	1 277	1 099
Examinations taken	n.a.	12	28
Seminars/workshops given	35	3	8
Appeals to Alberta Building Standards Council			
Appeals received*	29	35	25
Orders confirmed	10	7	7
Orders revoked	8	8	6
Orders varied	1	5	3
Product and systems approvals			
Total number of requests	41	64	85
Approvals issued	34	56	74
Product listing bulletins	2	15	21

* In each year shown, several appeals were withdrawn.

Table 12

Electrical Protection Branch
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Wiring permits issued	40 262	33 449	31 906
Plans and specifications reviewed	13 432	15 993	15 472
Inspections conducted			
Covered by permits	35 514	37 397	36 193
Not covered by permits	2 482	2 622	2 901
Electrical equipment approved	8 237	10 686	10 600
Electrical utility installations	2 651	3 445	3 062
TOTAL	48 884	54 150	52 756
Certificates & examinations			
Master electricians in Alberta (total)	2 222	2 476	2 543
Examinations written	424	598	430
Accident & fire investigations			
Non-fatal accidents	180	119	138
Fatal accidents	12	7	4
Fires	81	78	91
Seminar activities	317	171	439
Meetings	890	1 221	1 171
Technical interviews	68 704	83 135	85 177

Table 13

Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Drawings examined	566	566	287
New installations			
Passenger elevators	471	505	400
Private residence inclined lifts	3	3	1
Inclined passenger lifts	1	4	1
Escalators	37	21	26
Lifts for the handicapped	—	11	17
Freight elevators	29	16	12
Freight platform lifts	—	—	2
Dumbwaiters	28	13	36

Tables

Table 13
(Cont'd.)

Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Belt lifts	—	—	—
Personnel hoists	28	20	6
Aerial tramways	—	—	—
Chair lifts	1	6	—
Ski tows	3	—	1
Rope tows	2	3	8
Amusement rides	—	16	14
TOTAL	603	618	524
Alterations to existing equipment			
Passenger elevators	6	3	2
Freight elevators	4	—	—
Dumbwaiters	—	—	—
Rope tows	—	—	—
Ski tows	—	—	—
Aerial tramways	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	3	2
Inspections carried out			
Elevators & related equipment	5 239	4 360	4 955
Aerial tramways & related equipment	165	169	166
Amusement rides	423	454	472
Elevators (for Canada Labour)	148	116	119
Reinspections: all classes	1 381	1 326	1 961
Preliminary inspections: all classes	1 181	1 246	851
TOTAL	8 537	7 671	8 524
Accident investigations conducted (includes personal injury and/or equipment damage)			
Freight elevators	—	—	2
Escalators	9	4	—
Passenger elevators	1	3	2
Handpower freight elevators	—	—	—
Rope tows	—	—	—
Ski tows	4	—	1
Chair lifts	—	—	—
Aerial tramways	—	—	—
Amusement rides	3	3	28
TOTAL	17	10	33
Certificates of inspection issued	5 736	4 986	5 543
Meetings and seminars conducted or attended	45	53	60

Table 14

Fire Prevention Branch
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Fire prevention			
Building fire inspections conducted	3 123	2 204	2 624
Recommendations to correct hazards issued	9 892	6 401	8 028
Orders to remedy conditions issued	1	4	3
Plans examined	749	588	595
Meetings and lectures conducted	1 546	1 276	1 151
Attendance	34 831	25 831	16 908
Fire investigation			
Investigations conducted by branch	339	420	318
Investigations by other agencies	1 137	1 079	774
TOTAL	1 476	1 499	1 092
Causes of fire investigated			
Arson	1 076	1 126	780
Accidental or unknown	400	373	298
Under investigation	—	—	14
TOTAL	1 476	1 499	1 092
Fire service personnel training			
Alberta Fire Training School Municipal Training Programs (duration 44 hours)		**Attendance**	
Part I Firefighter	241	132	146
Part II Firefighter	111	143	90
Part III Firefighter	73	88	60
Part IV Firefighter	20	56	77
Part V Firefighter	—	—	19*
Part VI Firefighter	—	—	22*
Pump Operator "A"	37	38	36
Pump Operator "B"	21	31	13
Fire Service Instructor	35	19	12
Fire Prevention for the Firefighter	22	—	21
Fire Officer C1 Building Construction	53	—	7
Fire Officer C2 Leadership	22	51	6
Fire Officer C3 Pre-fire Planning	—	20	13
Fire Officer C4 Fire Suppression & Safety	—	20	12
Fire Officer C5 Strategy & Tactics	—	—	16*
Fire Officer C7 Fire Investigation	91	45	35
Fire Prevention Officer D1 Water Supply	—	11	—
Fire Prevention Officer D2 Standpipe & Sprinkler Systems	—	—	14*
TOTAL municipal fire department personnel	726	654	599

Tables

Table 14
(Cont'd.)

Fire Prevention Branch
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Extension courses — municipal presentation (duration 44 hours)			
Part I Firefighter	80	286	339
Fire Prevention for the Firefighter	—	50	45
Fire Officer C7 Fire Investigator	—	—	49
Personnel attending AFTS-sponsored extension courses	80	336	433
TOTAL municipal fire department personnel	806	990	1 032
Industrial programs			
Part I Industrial Firefighter (16 hours)	—	61	88
Part IA Industrial Firefighter (8 hours)	65	64	99
Part II Industrial Firefighter (16 hours)	—	55	98
Part III Industrial Firefighter (16 hours)	—	—	38*
Aircraft Crash/Fire Response — Dry Chemical	—	12	—
TOTAL industrial fire department personnel	65	192	323
TOTAL ATTENDANCE — AFTS-sponsored courses	871	1 182	1 355
One-day seminars	146	111	185
Two-day seminars	—	—	23*

* These courses were offered for the first time in 1983-84.

Table 15

Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Plumbing and gas permits issued			
Plumbing permits	6 923	4 257	6 010
Private sewage disposal permits	3 596	2 435	2 896
Plumbing in factory-assembled buildings	862	177	138
SUB-TOTAL plumbing permits	11 381	6 869	9 044
Natural gas (towns and villages)	17 135	17 913	16 461
Natural gas (farms)	5 916	1 323	415
Propane gas (towns and villages)	4 818	4 994	4 659
Propane gas (farms)	1 516	211	91
Plastic pipe (natural gas)	1 675	1 009	1 161
SUB-TOTAL gas permits	31 060	25 450	22 787
TOTAL plumbing and gas permits	42 441	32 319	31 831

Table 15
(Cont'd.)

Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Field inspections			
Plumbing inspections	11 192	13 309	16 379
Plumbing complaints investigated	85	101	175
SUB-TOTAL plumbing inspections	11 277	13 410	16 554
Gas installations covered by permits	30 251	29 814	31 320
Existing gas installations	2 431	2 860	3 555
Approval of domestic/commercial gas appliances	353	326	273
Approval of industrial gas equipment	114	378	400
SUB-TOTAL gas inspections	33 149	33 378	35 548
TOTAL plumbing and gas inspections	44 426	46 788	52 102
Workers' certificates issued			
Gasfitter certificates	1 678	1 734	1 560
Sewage system contractors' certificates	100	88	61
TOTAL	1 778	1 822	1 621
Tradesmen training seminars			
For plumbing installers	47	55	57
For gasfitters	86	97	99
TOTAL	133	152	156
Examinations given	64	88	76
Plans examined	700	591	666
Public meetings	108	127	294
Accident investigations			
Accidents reported	90	76	72
Accidents investigated	90	76	72
Fatal accidents	5	5	5
Non-fatal injuries	28	24	28

Tables

Table 16

Alberta Labour Relations Board
Comparative statistical summary
for the three years ending 31 March 1982, 1983 and 1984

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Applications for certification (Section 34)			
Outstanding at beginning of period	—	35	86
Applications received	202	272	707
Issued	115	152	62
Refused or withdrawn	52	69	78
Outstanding at end of period	35	86	653
Applications for revocation (Section 43)			
Outstanding at beginning of period	—	1	3
Applications received	15	13	19
Issued	10	8	8
Refused or withdrawn	4	3	4
Outstanding at end of period	1	3	10
Applications for registration (Section 53)			
Outstanding at beginning of period	—	—	—
Applications received	1	2	3
Issued	—	1	2
Refused or withdrawn	1	1	—
Outstanding at end of period	—	—	1
Applications for reconsideration, determination, declaration and variance (Sections 8, 18, 21, 41, 45, 132, 133, 135)	265	186	292
Unfair labour practices (Section 142)	39	89	84
References of illegal strike or lockout	18	65	5
Applications for strike/lockout votes to be supervised by board (Section 87)	240	215	68
TOTAL APPLICATIONS	780	842	1 178
Days of board hearings	154	152	147